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**S E C R E T**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

**REPORT**

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**COUNTRY**

Austria

**DATE DISTR.** 2 / SEPTEMBER 53**SUBJECT**

1. Strength of Soviet Units in Austria
2. Attrition Rate of Soviet Troops

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in Austria

3. Soviet Military Leave System in Austria

**NO. OF ENCL'S.  
(LISTED BELOW)****PLACE ACQUIRED****DATE ACQUIRED****DATE OF IN****SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

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**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

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**Strength of Soviet Units in Austria**

1. [REDACTED] the 9th Rifle Co., had approximately 134 men, the 3rd Gds. Rifle Bn., approximately 750 men, and the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., approximately 2,300 men. [REDACTED] other units were at their full peacetime strength in June 1953.

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**Attrition Rate of Soviet Troops in Austria**

3. The following men were returned to the USSR prior to completion of their term of service for the reasons cited:
  - a. One man from the 9th Rifle Co., because of tuberculosis. He was of the 1931 Class and returned in May 1953.
  - b. One man from the 1st Gds. Rifle Bn., 290th Gds. Rifle Regt., because of heart disease. He was of the 1932 Class and was returned in January 1953.

**ARMY review completed.****S E C R E T**

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**25 YEAR RE-REVIEW**

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- c. One man from the 120-mm Mort. Btry., 344th How. Arty. Regt., 95th Gds. Rifle Div., in Kauholz was returned to the USSR in March 1953 because of tuberculosis; he was of the 1932 Class.

- d. [redacted] individuals returned to the USSR because of political unreliability

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e. [redacted] However most of the soldiers, at one time or another, were sent to different schools in Austria.

- f. One man of the 344th How. Arty. Regt. was court-martialed in August 1952 and sentenced to 1½ year's hard labor for being AWOL, drunkenness, and losing his uniform. He was returned to the USSR.

4. The following illnesses and injuries warranted return to the USSR: tuberculosis; stomach, heart and venereal diseases; ulcers; blindness, and loss of an eye or limb.

5. [redacted]

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[redacted] criticising the Army too much was sometimes sufficient reason for classifying a person as politically unreliable.

6. Any man who had been court-martialed was sent back to the USSR. The following were sufficient reasons for courts-martial: excessive drunkenness, repeated fraternization with Austrian nationals, repeated disobedience, vehicle accidents which were the fault of the drivers, loose talk, and excessive criticism of the military.

7. [redacted]

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8. [redacted] hospitalized troops were being sent back by regular passenger trains. Prisoners were returned in special trains under guard.

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9. [redacted] replacements for all returnees arrived during regular rotation periods.

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#### Leave System

10. Officers in Austria were entitled to 45 days of leave each year, including travel time. The 45 days had to be taken at one time, only to the USSR, and at the discretion of the commander.

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11. In Austria, no enlisted man was allowed to go on leave except in case of a death in his family. Then, he only received 10 days plus travel time. It took about three months to get such a leave. In the USSR, 10-day leaves were given for good marksmanship, political reliability, and excellent marks in political examinations, as well as informing on comrades, or any deed considered good by the individual's commander.

12. [redacted]

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